

- DAVENPORT HOUSE -

HABS NO 14-8

- SAVANNAH GEORGIA -

HABS

GA.

26-SAY

CHATHAM Co

6-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Georgia
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Harold Bush-Brown, District Officer
Georgia School of Technology, Atlanta, Ga.

ADDITIONAL
FOLLOWS...

DAVENPORT HOUSE
Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia

Owner: Mrs. Geo. Peters.

Date of Erection: 1800 - 1810.

Architect:
and ^A Isiah Davenport.
Builder: ^A

Present Condition: Poor.

Number of Stories: Two main stories with high basement below and attic above.

Materials of Construction: Brick foundation, wood floors, brick exterior walls, metal roof.

Other Existing Records: Descriptive Data and measured drawings by P. Thornton Marye, District Officer, HABS, 1934. Architectural Forum June 1936. ^{DEANMAN, E.P. ARCHITECTURE OF} THE OLD SOUTH, PLATE 48.

Additional Data: Graceful wrought iron balusters on entrance stoop. Entrance has beautiful elliptical arch; dormers, gable end and cellar also contain arch motive which is semi-circular. Steps of stone.

Harold Bush-Brown
HAROLD BUSH-BROWN
DISTRICT OFFICER-HABS

DAVENPORT HOUSE
Corner of State and Habersham Streets
Savannah, Chatham County
Georgia

ARCHITECTURAL NOTES:

The brick mansion stands on a high basement, and, in addition to a first and a second storey, has a large attic with four rooms. The chimneys, two at each gable, have parapets between them. The principal entrance to the house is by a horseshoe stair with stone steps and an exquisite wrought-iron rail. At the rear of the house is an odd motif consisting of a narrow door and window together under a circular transom.

The hallway, less than seven feet wide, is made still narrower by freestanding Ionic columns, holding blocks of entablature from which springs an elliptical arch. At the end of the Living Room are engaged elliptical arches with the same kind of column and block.

by Henry Chaudler Frazier
1936

Addendum to
Isaac Dayenport House
324 East State Street
Savannah
Chatham County
Georgia

HABS No. GA-14-8

HABS
GA
26-SAV,
6-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ADDENDUM TO
ISAAC DAVENPORT HOUSE

HABS No. GA-14-8

Location: 324 East State Street, Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia.

Present Owner: Historic Savannah Foundation

Present Use: House Museum.

Significance: A good example of a Transitional-Federal Style house, built in 1820 by its first owner, Isaac Davenport.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History;

1. Date of erection: 1820
2. Architect: Isaac Davenport, carpenter and builder. Davenport was highly respected in the community. After his death, in 1827, the city accorded him civic honors.
3. Original and subsequent owners:

1812	Deed dated November 2, 1812, recorded in Liber 2t, f 20. Edward Stebbins, merchant To Isaac Davenport, carpenter
1827	Will. Isaac Davenport To Heirs
1840	Deed dated May 8, 1840, recorded in Liber 2Y, f 307-308. Heirs of Isaac Davenport To William E. Baynard, planter, Hilton Head Island Purchase price \$9,000.00.

The property remained in the possession of Baynard's descendants until 1955, when it was bought by the Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc.

Prepared by: Eleni Silverman
Architectural Historian, HABS
June 1984

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Davenport House is a fine example of Transitional Federal Architecture.
2. Condition: good. Restored from 1956 to 1960 by Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Two-and-one-half stories over a raised basement, approximately 48' x 40'.
2. Foundations: Brick.
3. Wall construction: Brick bearing walls.
4. Porches: The main entrance stair has double-curve (horse-shoe) stairs and a decorative wrought iron railing with scrollwork medallion.
5. Chimneys: There are four end chimneys flush with the exterior walls.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The entrance doorway has a six-panel door with sidelights and full elliptical fanlight.
 - b. Windows: Typical windows are six-over-six light double hung wooden sash. The windows have limestone sills and lintels.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The gable roof has a complex form with gabled parapets and dormers.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:
 - a. First floor: A central hall with a circular stairway at the rear. There are two large rooms at the front and two at the rear of the house.
 - b. Second floor: A central hall with two large rooms at the front of the house and two small rooms at the rear.

- c. Attic: Floor plan similar to that of the second floor.
2. Stairways: The main circular wooden stairway is mahogany.
Stairs to the basement are located behind the main stair.
3. Flooring: The floor is pine boards, 6' wide.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are plaster on the first and second floors and horizontal wooden planks (18" wide) on the third.

The ceilings on the first and second floors are plaster, and that on the third is wood.

5. Doorways and doors: Typical doors on the first floor are six-panel, painted wood. The six-panel varnished doors on the second and attic floors appear to be original.
6. Decorative features: The east room of the first floor has a molded plaster cornice and a large center medallion. The top of the projecting plaster molding of the arch in the east room is inscribed "George Smith, September 1822".

The east room on the first floor has a white marble mantel. There are wooden mantels on the fireplaces in the two small rooms on the first floor.

The four fireplace mantels on the second floor are wooden.

7. Heating: Originally heated by wood burning fireplaces.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The house faces east on State Street and is situated at the northeast corner of Columbia Square.
2. Landscaping: There is a garden to the east and to the north of the house.

Prepared by: Eleni Silverman
Architectural Historian, HABS
June 1984

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Linley, John. Georgia Catalog: Historic American Buildings Survey,
Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1982, p. 326.